Lord Krsna Visits the Home of Akrura

From Krsna Book, Chapter 48 by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada

Narrator: (music) Krsna left Vrndavana in order to fulfill His promise to annihilate the demons and protect His devotees. In Mathura City, Krsna defeated the wrestlers, killed the evil Kamsa and replaced Ugrasena on the throne.

After resting a while, Krsna fulfilled His promise to visit Akrura at his house in Mathura. Akrura was in relationship with Krsna as His servitor, and Krsna wanted to get some service from him. He went there accompanied by both Lord Balarama and Uddhava. (Krsna, Balarama and Uddhava enter and this is acted out.)

When Krsna, Balarama and Uddhava were approaching the house of Akrura, Akrura came forward, (Akrura enters) embraced Uddhava and offered respectful obeisances, bowing down before Lord Krsna and Balarama.

Krsna, Balarama and Uddhava offered him obeisances in turn and were offered appropriate sitting places by Akrura.

When all were comfortably seated, Akrura washed their feet and sprinkled the water on his head. Then, he offered nice flowers and sandalwood pulp in regular worship. All three of them became very satisfied by the behavior of Akrura.

Then, keeping Krsna's lotus feet on his lap, Akrura began to gently massage them. When Akrura was fully satisfied in the presence of Krsna and Balarama, his eyes became filled with tears of love for Krsna, and he began to offer his prayers as follows:

Akrura: My dear Lord Krsna, it is very kind of You to have killed Kamsa and his associates. You have delivered the whole family of the Yadu dynasty from the greatest calamity! Your great feat of saving of the great Yadu dynasty will always be remembered by them.

My dear Lord Krsna and Balarama, You are the original personality from whom everything has emanated. You are the original cause of all causes. You have inconceivable energy, and You are all-pervasive.

But for Yourself, there is no other cause and effect, gross or subtle. You are the Supreme Brahman realized by the study of the Vedas.

By Your inconceivable energy, You are actually visible before us. You create this cosmic manifestation by Your own potencies, and You enter into it Yourself. As the five material elements, earth, water, fire, air, and sky, are distributed in everything manifested by different kinds of bodies, so You alone enter into different varieties of bodies, created by Your own energy.

You enter the body as the individual soul as well as independently as the Supersoul. The material body is created by Your inferior energy.

The living entities, individual souls, are part and parcel of You, and the Supersoul is Your localized representation. This material body, the living entity and the Supersoul constitute an individual living being, but originally they are all different energies of the one Supreme Lord.

In the material world, You are creating, maintaining and dissolving the whole manifestation by interaction of three qualities, namely goodness, passion and ignorance. You are not implicated by the activities of those material qualities because Your supreme knowledge is never overcome, as is the case with the individual living entity.

Narrator: As the Supreme Lord enters into this material creation and thus the creation, maintenance and destruction are going on in their due course, so the part and parcel living entity enters the material elements and has his material body created for him.

The difference between the living entity and the Lord is that the living entity is part and parcel of the Supreme Lord and has the tendency to be overcome by the interactions of material qualities.

Krsna, the Parambrahman or the Supreme Brahman, being always situated in full knowledge, is never overcome by such activities. Therefore, Krsna’s name is Acyuta, meaning "He who never falls down." Krsna’s knowledge of spiritual identity is never overcome by material action, whereas the identity of the minute part and parcel living entities is prone to be overcome by material action. The individual living entities are eternally part and parcel of God as minute sparks of the original fire, Krsna, they have the tendency to become extinguished.

Akrura: The less intelligent class of men misunderstand Your transcendental form to be also made of material energy. That concept is not at all applicable to You.

Actually, You are all spiritual, and there is no difference between You and Your body. Because of this, there is no question of Your being conditioned or liberated. You are ever-liberated in any condition of life.

As stated in the Bhagavad-gita, ‘Only the fools and rascals consider You to be an ordinary man.’ To consider Your Lordship to be one of us, conditioned by the material nature, is a mistake due to our imperfect knowledge.

When people deviate from the original knowledge of the Vedas, they try to identify the ordinary living entities with Your Lordship. Your Lordship has appeared on this earth in Your original form in order to reestablish the real knowledge that the living entities are neither one with nor equal to the Supreme God.

My dear Lord, You are always situated in uncontaminated goodness (*suddha-sattva*).Your appearance is necessary to reestablish actual Vedic knowledge, as opposed to the atheistic philosophy which tries to establish that God and the living entities are one and the same.

My dear Lord Krsna, this time You have appeared in the home of Vasudeva as His son, along with Your plenary expansion, Sri Balarama. Your mission is to kill all the atheistic royal families, along with their huge military strength. You have advented Yourself to minimize the overburden of the world, and in order to fulfill this mission, You have glorified the dynasty of Yadu, appearing in the family as one of its members.

My dear Lord, today my home has become purified by Your presence. I have become the most fortunate person in the world. The Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is worshipable by all different kinds of demigods, Pitas, living entities, kings and emperors, and who is the Supersoul of everything, has come into my home. The water of His lotus feet is purifying the three worlds, and now He has kindly come to my place.

Who is there in the three worlds among factually learned men will not take shelter of Your lotus feet and surrender unto You? Who, knowing well that no one can be as affectionate as You are to Your devotees, is so foolish that he will decline to become Your devotee?

Throughout the Vedic literature it is declared that You are the dearmost friend of every living entity. This is confirmed in the Bhagavad-gita: *suhrdam sarva-bhutanam*.

You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, completely capable of fulfilling the desires of Your devotees. You are the real friend of everyone. In spite of giving Yourself to Your devotees, You are never depleted of Your original potency. Your potency neither decreases nor increases in volume.

My dear Lord, it is very difficult for even the great mystic yogis and demigods to ascertain Your movement. You cannot be approached by them, and yet out of Your causeless mercy You have kindly consented to come to my home.

This is the most auspicious moment in the journey of my material existence. By Your grace only, I can just understand that my home, my wife, my children and my worldly possessions are all different bonds to material existence. Please cut the knot and save me from this entanglement of false society, friendship and love.

Narrator: Lord Sri Krsna was very pleased by Akrura’s offering of prayers. His smile was captivating Akrura more and more. The Lord replied to him as follows:

Krsna: My dear Akrura, in spite of your submissiveness, I consider you to be My superior, on the level with My father and teacher and most well-wishing friend. You are, therefore, worshipable by Me, and since you are My uncle, I

am always to be protected by you. I desire to be maintained by you because I am one of your own children. Apart from this filial relationship, you are always to be worshiped. Anyone who desires good fortune must offer his respectful obeisances unto personalities like you.

Narrator: People go to worship the demigods when they are in need of some sense gratification; the demigods offer benediction to their devotees after being worshiped by them. But, a devotee like Akrura is always ready to offer the greatest benediction to the people. A saintly person or devotee is free to offer benediction to everyone, whereas the demigods can offer benediction only after being worshiped.

Krsna: One can take advantage of the place of pilgrimage only after going there. By worshiping the particular demigod, it takes a long time to attain the fulfillment of one's desires; but saintly persons like you, My dear Akrura, can immediately fulfill all the desires of the devotees!

My dear Akrura, you are always Our friend and well-wisher. You are always ready to act for Our welfare. Kindly, therefore, go to Hastinapura and see what arrangement has been made for the Pandavas.

Narrator: Krsna was very anxious to know about the sons of Pandu, because at a very young age, they had lost their father. Being very friendly to His devotees, Krsna was anxious to know about them, and therefore He deputed Akrura to go to Hastinapura and get information of the real situation. Krsna continued to say:

Krsna: I have heard that after the death of King Pandu his young sons, Yudhisthira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva, along with their widowed mother, have come under the charge of Dhrtarastra, who is to look after them as their guardian. But, I have also heard that Dhrtarastra is not only blind from birth, but also blind in his affection for his cruel son, Duryodhana.

The five Pandavas are the sons of King Pandu, but Dhrtarastra, due to his plans and designs, is not favorably disposed towards the Pandavas. Kindly go there and study how Dhrtarastra is dealing with the Pandavas.

On receipt of your report, I shall consider how to favor the Pandavas.

Narrator: In this way, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krsna, ordered Akrura to go to Hastinapura, and then He returned to the home of His relatives in Mathura, accompanied by Balarama and Uddhava. (Bhajan)